United Nations A/57/7/Add.20

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2002

Original: English

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 112 and 38

Programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

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Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.20

Twenty-first report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/57/L.20, entitled "The situation in Central America: procedures for the establishment of a firm and lasting peace and progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development" (A/C.5/57/28). During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General.

2. As indicated in paragraphs 1 and 9 to 13 of the statement (A/C.5/57/28), the Secretary-General requests the continuation in 2003 of provisions for a political affairs officer post (at the P-4 level) and one General Service post to continue to provide support to the efforts of the Secretary-General in post-conflict peace-building in Central America. The political affairs officer would continue to monitor the Guatemala peace process, providing support to the activities of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA) and to the verification and good offices functions carried out by United Nations Headquarters in respect of the peace-building process in El Salvador. The political affairs officer would also continue to follow developments in the Central America region as a whole.

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3. The estimated costs related to the salaries and common staff costs of these two staff members (1 P-4 and 1 General Service) for the one-year period from 1 January to 31 December 2003 amount to $202,800 net ($244,200 gross). After taking into account the fact that, out of $188,500 appropriated for 2002 for expenditures relating to those staff members, an estimated $19,900 is expected to remain unencumbered at the end of 2002, the additional requirements for the two staff members for 2003 amount to $182,900 net ($224,300 gross) (see A/C.5/57/28, para. 14).

4. **Bearing in mind what is stated in paragraph 16 of the statement of the Secretary-General, (A/C.5/57/28) the Fifth Committee may wish to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/57/L.20, an additional appropriation of $182,900 would be required under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Furthermore, an amount of $41,400 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.**